**Sports:** Was that a basketball game or a track meet in Denver? Warriors smack Nuggets 127-108; Durant leads scoring with 25. C1

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**Eat Drink Play:** Slopes, trails and blue, blue Lake Tahoe

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WINE COUNTRY FIRES

# 'They were the family that everyone strives to be like'

## Hospitalized Shepherds don't yet know their children died in Redwood Valley fire

**By Emily DeRuy**
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Jon and Sara Shepherd don't know yet that their babies, Kai and Kressa, are gone.

The wildfire that tore through the family's Mendocino County community last month left the couple too badly burned and too fragile to endure such an emotional blow right now, their doctors fear. It would be better to wait, they said, until Jon and Sara recover a little more to tell them the devastating news.

But there is no "right time," not for this, said Jon's sister, Lisa Shepherd. How do you tell a mother and father that their children have become the youngest victims of California's deadliest wildfires ever?

"We're all just terrified because we know how deeply this family loved each other," Lisa said last week after Kressa, 17, died in a hospital, the 43rd victim of the wildfires that raged across

SHEPHERD » PAGE 18

COURTESY OF MINDI RAMOS

Jonathan and Sara Shepherd are on the trail with their children Kressa and Kai. All four were burned in the Wine Country fires last month, and the children did not survive.

CABLE COMPANIES STARTING TO SWEAT?

# STREAMING INTO YOUR LIVING ROOM...

## Netflix and other internet options are putting the squeeze on cable dominance

**By Rex Crum**
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For years, cable companies had TV viewers over a barrel.

They were the source for premium channels like HBO and Showtime, and basic cable networks such as ESPN and TBS. Even if you just wanted a decent picture from your local network affiliates, you had to sign up for cable unless you wanted to deal with spotty reception from an antenna on your roof or a set of rabbit ears.

But, it's starting to look like the consumer and the cable company are switching places, and it's the cable giants that are strapped to the proverbial barrel as subscribers flee to cheaper internet-based streaming services.

As more and more people cut the cord, cable companies' pain is Silicon Valley's gain. Companies like Los Gatos-based Netflix are drawing droves of new viewers to their original, streamed shows and movies while Comcast's subscriber numbers sink.

"Choice is the new black," said Laura Martin, media an-

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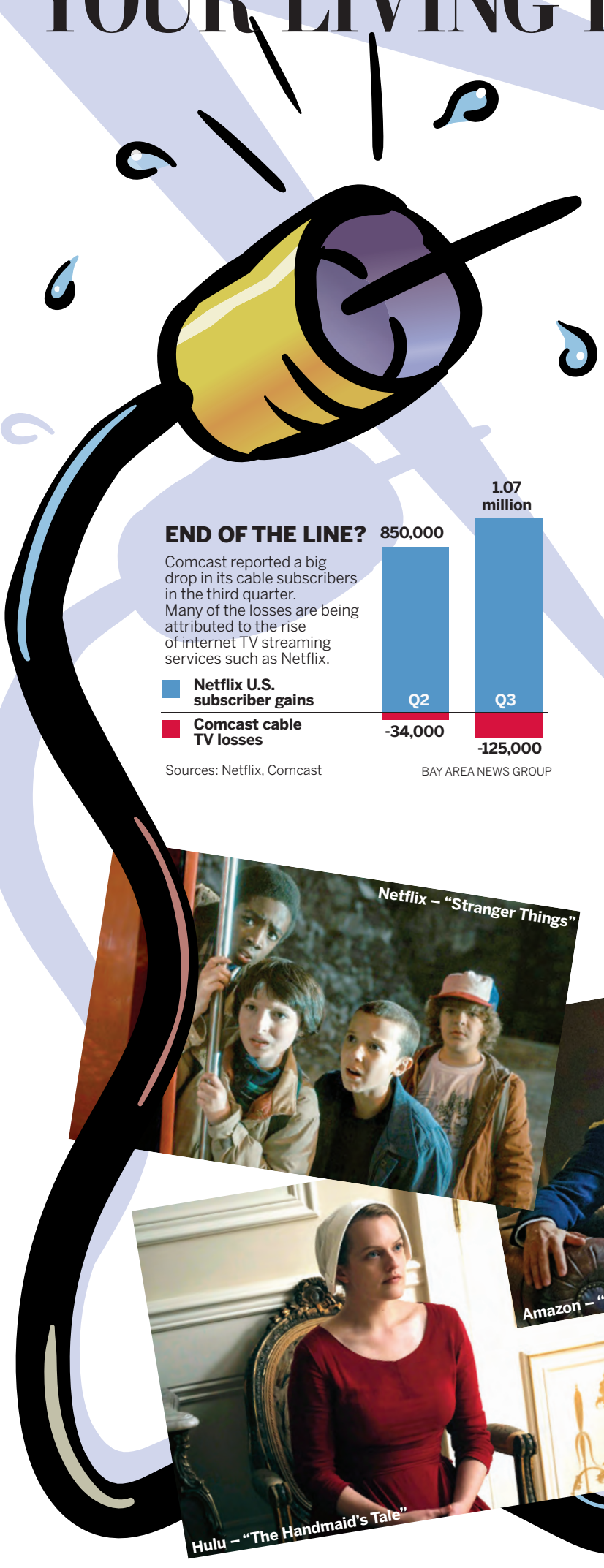


JEFF DURHAM — BAY AREA NEWS GROUP

EYES ON VIRGINIA ELECTION

# Trans hopefuls blazing trails

## At least 29 openly transgender candidates running in US

**By Casey Tolan**
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When Lisa Middleton was a 12-year-old living in East Los Angeles, she checked out a book at the library about Christine Jorgensen, a World War II veteran who became the first person to publicly go through sex reassignment surgery. It was after devouring those pages that a wide-eyed Middleton first realized she was transgender.

Fifty years later, Middleton is hoping to make her own history. On Tuesday, she'll be on the ballot in a City Council race in Palm Springs, and could become the first transgender person elected to political office in California.

She's part of what activists describe as a new wave of transgender candidates running for local, state and federal offices around the U.S. in the wake of President Donald Trump's election

BALLOT » PAGE 8

THE JIMMY GAROPPOLO FILE

# *Only two starts, but he has the Patriots mystique*

**Daniel Brown**
*Senior writer*

**SANTA CLARA »** With the acquisition of Jimmy Garoppolo, the 49ers hope they have a quarterback who can serve as the face of the franchise.

And what a face it is.

"He's a good-looking guy," Dino Babers, his college coach, confirmed to the Bay Area News Group this week. "Dark hair. He's going to tan up very well in that California sun."

The 49ers certainly like the cut of his jib, which is why they're gearing up to pay Garoppolo a pretty penny. Acquired last week from the New England Patriots in exchange for a

BROWN » PAGE 8

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INSIDE TODAY'S PAPER

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